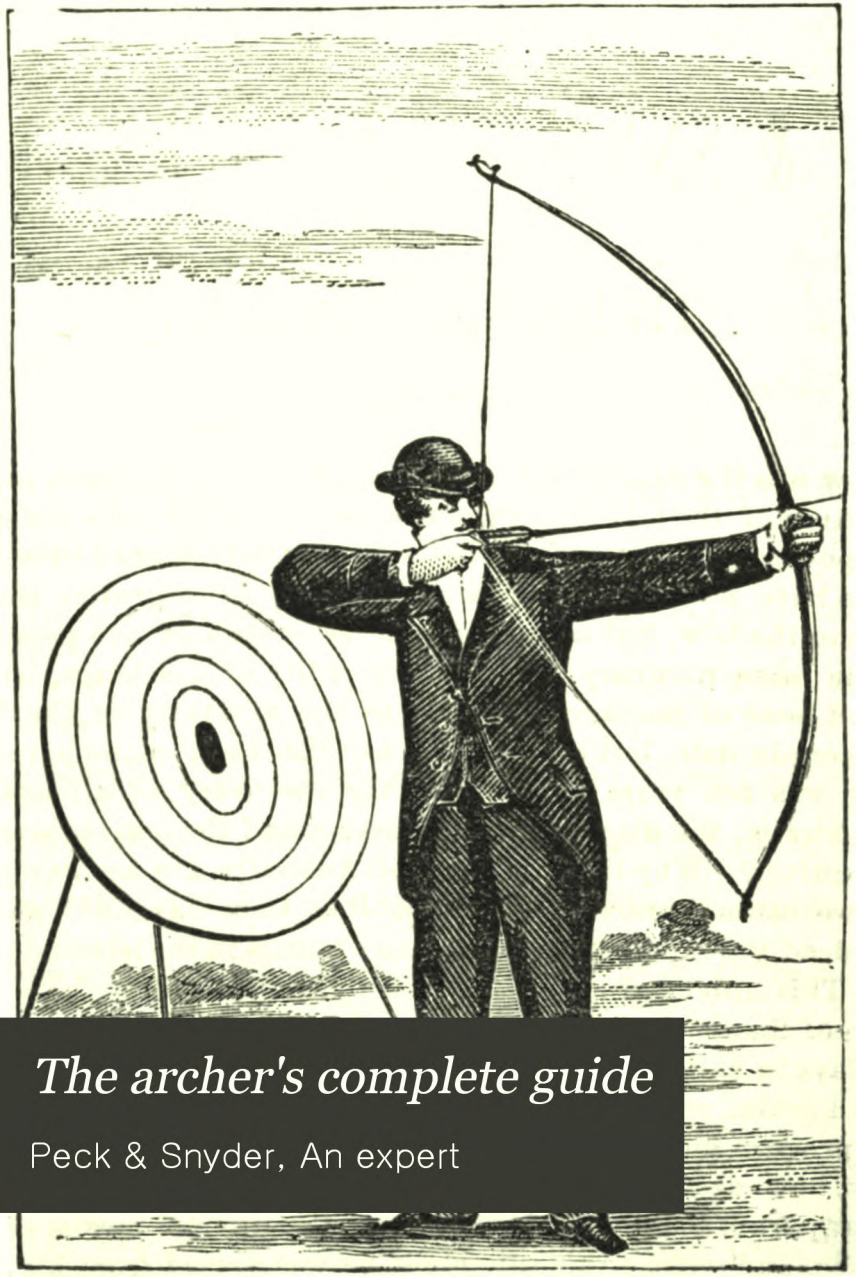
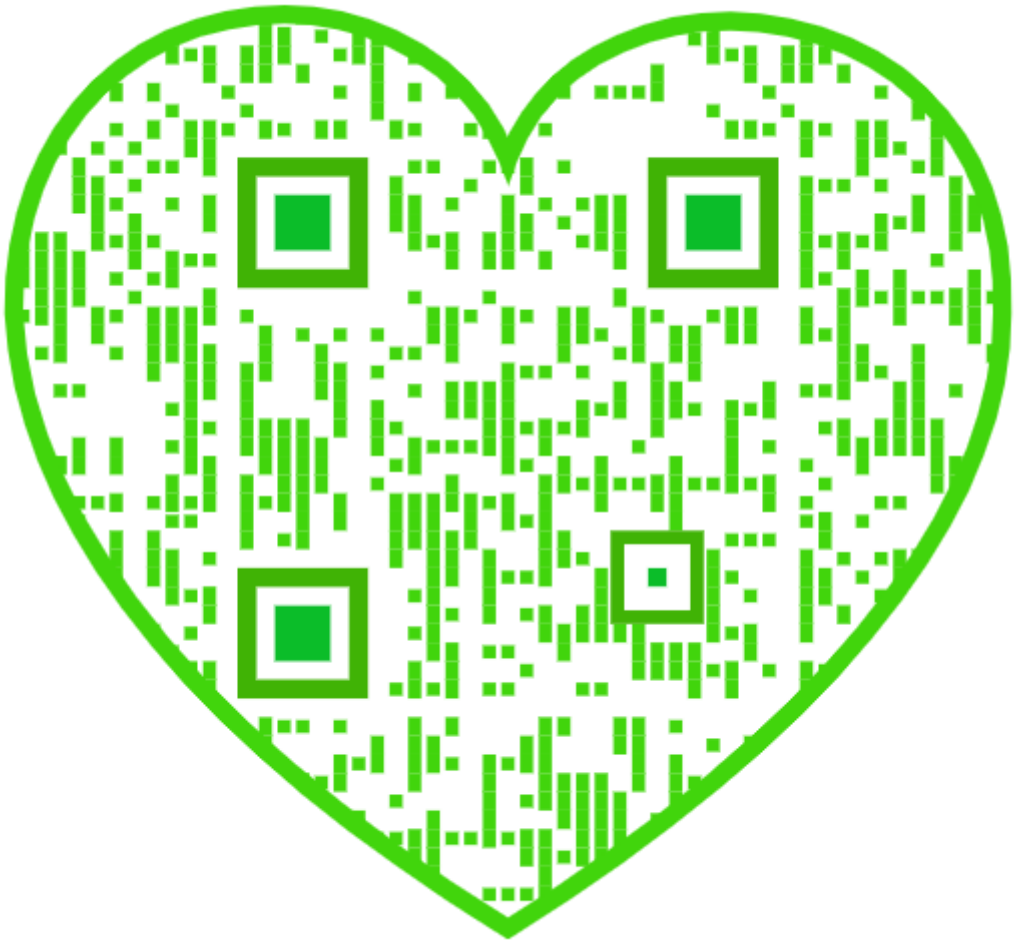


The archer's complete guide

Peck & Snyder, An expert



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THE

ARCHER'S COMPLETE GUIDE

OR,

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE

OF THE

LONG BOW.

BY AN EXPERT.

NEW YORK:
PECK & SNYDER,
124 NASSAU STREET.
1878.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1878, by
PECK & SNYDER,
in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.

PREFACE.

In the compilation of this work the publishers are indebted to several Archers, both of the old and new school on the use of the long bow, from which we have selected much valuable information

As we are going to press with this book we have learned that a number of Public Schools throughout the Union are about adopting Archery for the use of the scholars thinking it will be a great benefit to their health both mentally and physically.

The object in bringing out so *small* a work is, that every lover of the noble game of Archery may have an opportunity of being in possession of its rudiments at a *trifling expense*, and if it will perform the object which we intend it to, we will be only too thankful and remain,

Yours Respectfully,

PECK & SNYDER.

JUNE, 1878.

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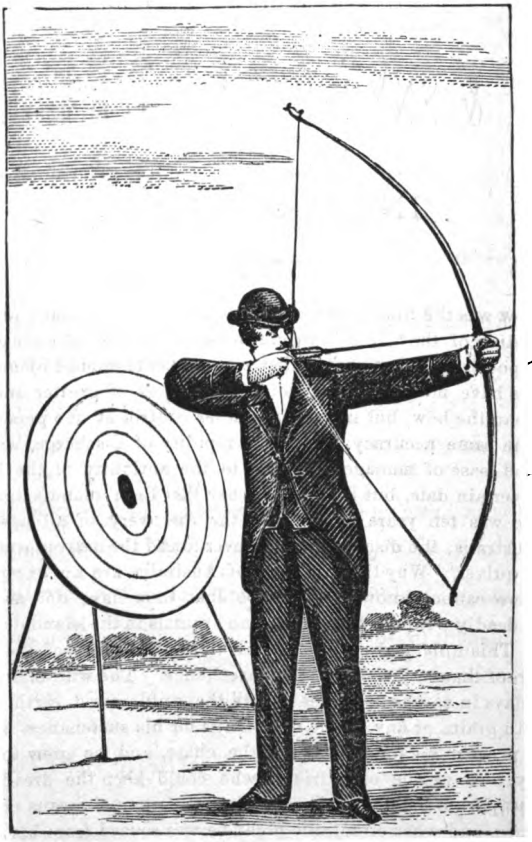


THE CORRECT ATTITTDE.

PECK & SNYDER'S ARCHERS GUIDE.

INTRODUCTION.

The bow was the first respectable weapon of war or chase, and, until the invention of the "Hell-born murderer," as Carew calls the gun, was the most powerful instrument of distruction ever fashioned by men. Not that there have not been other missile weapons of greater individual energy than the bow, but no weapon under control of one person, combining the same accuracy, force and rapidity of discharge, with simplicity and ease of management. As to the antiquity of the bow, we have no certain date, but it is safe to say that Cain manufactured one before he was ten years of age. At the discovery of all new lands, except Australia, the discoverers have ever found the natives armed with bow and quiver. Why the wild men of Australia are an exception to the rule we cannot know. It may be that they have not so greatly needed a deadly weapon, there being no animals in the island dangerous to man. This universal use of the bow by the wild men of the earth is higher proof than any writing of its excellence. The wild man fated to pass his days in savage solitudes, where the unfurrowed earth did not bring forth grain, or any of the finer fruits for his sustenance, was compelled to procure his food chiefly by the chase, and he grew to regard his trusty bow as the only friend who could keep the dread face of famine away from his door. It was also his principal means of offense and defence, and when in middle night he was roused from his sleep by the flames of his burning lodge and the yells of some wild foraying band, he always had sufficient presence of mind to seize his bow before plunging into the blackness of the forest. He might be driven by danger to desert his family, but his bow, never. Constantly using it, it is not wonderful that he attained to great perfection in shooting, and we have many instances on record where Indians of some of the American tribes have competed on even terms with the most perfect rifles. When

De Soto crossed Florida he lost four hundred horses by the arrows of the natives. To show the immense force with which they drove their arrows, a young prisoner sent a shaft through two setts of steel armor placed one over the other. But the bow has served civilized as well as savage nations. France and England fought great battles wherein thousands of men died each with an arrow driven through him. William II. and Richard I. of England were each slain by an arrow. Twenty-eight hundred archers won the battle of Cussy in 1346, and in 1356, the battle of Poictius was gained by the English solely on account of the wonderful skill of the archers. The power of Scotland was broken in 1402, by the unaided efforts of the English archers. Nearly all the noblest knights of France fell before the arrows of King Edward's archers at Cussy. It is said that thirty thousand Frenchmen died by arrows, before King John of France yielded himself to the Black Prince at Poictius. At Agincourt, King Henry V. with seven thousand archers, each drawing a "cloth yard shaft," slew all the chivalry of France, losing only twenty-six men. Robert Bruce destroyed a magnificent corps of English archers at Bannockburn by a charge of Scottish cavalry, but only after they had wrought dreadful havoc in the Scottish ranks. Walter Scott gives a fine picture of that resistless rain of arrows that galled Bruce beyond endurance.

"Then stepped each yeoman forth a pace,
Glanced at the intervening space,
And raised his left hand high;
To the right ear the cords they bring—
—At once ten thousand bow-strings ring,
Ten thousand arrows fly!
Nor paused on the devoted Scott
The ceaseless fury of their shot;
As fiercely and as fast
Forth whistling came the gray goose wing
As the wild hail-stones pelt and ring
Adown December's blasts.
Nor mountain targe of tough bull-hide,
Nor lowland mail that storm may bide;
Woe, woe to Scotland's bannered pride
If the fell shower may last!"

And further when the archers are broken, dispersed and trodden under the feet of the charging cavalry, how suggestive of the skill of the slain archers are the following lines:

"Let stags of Sherwood leap for glee,
And bound the deer of Dallow-Lee!
The broken bows of Bannock's shore
Shall in the green-wood ring no more."

It needs no production of examples, however, to inform those versed in common history, that from the Norman conquest to the fifteenth century, the reddest triumphs of England were the results of her matchless archery. No soldiery of to-day is subject to such ceaseless drill, or governed by such severe enactments as were the English archer corps, and, strange to say, one of the stringent laws enforced in the palmiest days of the bow, stands to-day unrepealed on the statute books of Great Britain! By its terms, no bowman under twenty-four years, should shoot at any mark nearer than *two hundred and twenty yards!* This was for the purpose of preventing that very common cause of poor shooting, namely, shooting at only *point blanc* marks.

In order that the novice might form a true idea of the powers and accuracy of the long-bow, we bethought us of making a long list of extraordinary shots and of high scores made at targets by *modern archers*, but we find that there is so much monotony in such reading that we only give a few authentic examples.

1

In a contest at Chalkfarm, England, between Mr. Glynn of the Royal Toxaphilites, shooting a sixty-five pound bow, and Dr. Higgins, of Greek St., Soho, shooting with a rifle, at a target four feet in diameter, one hundred yards distant, at twenty-one shots each the score stood:

Bow, 15 hits, Gun 12 hits. This was in the year 1792, and of course before rifles were brought to their present perfection.

2

A squadron of archers—Bashir Tartars from the shores of the Aral Sea—hung upon the rear of the French Army in its disastrous retreat from Moscow, and entered Paris with the allied army in 1816. At the battle of Krasnoi their arrows dropped into the ranks of the French *from beyond the reach of the muskets.*

3

The *London Times* of July 25th, 1795, gives an account of a band of Catabuwa (Catawba) warriors then exhibiting at a theater called Sadler's Wells, who every evening, at sixty feet, hit a mark not larger than a shilling, on an average oftener than three times in five.

4

King Henry the eighth of England, at the field of the Cloth of Gold, giving an exhibition of the power of the English bow, in the presence of Francis and all his knights, drove several arrows into a target at two hundred and forty yards.

In a splendid shooting match at Windsor, before king Henry VIII. when the exercise was nearly over, his majesty observing one of his guard, named Barlow, preparing to shoot, said to him, "beat them all, Barlow, and thou shalt be Duke of Archers." Barlow drew his bow. executed the king's command, and received the promised reward, being created Duke of Shoreditch, that being the place of his residence.

5

On the 19th of July, 1792, Mahmood Effendi, the Secretary of the Turkish Embassy at the English Court, in a field behind Bedford House, London, shot an arrow four hundred and fifteen yards, partly against the wind, and four hundred and eighty-two yards with the wind. This was done in the presence of the members of the Royal Toxophilite Society. The bow used was a Turkish bow drawing one hundred and sixty pounds.

6

Selim, Grand Segnior of Turkey, in 1798, shot a light flight shaft nine hundred and seventy-two yards, the distance being measured by Sir Robert Ainslie, then the British Embassador to the Porto. This is the greatest flight of an arrow that seems well authenticated.

7

On the 1st of October, 1790, at Branhope Hall, Yorkshire, England, Miss Littledale, Mr. Gilpin and Mr. Wyborough, shot a match at one hundred yards, at a target with a seven inch gold center. After a contest of three hours, Miss Littledale won, and the record shows, that her *three last hits were in the gold.* The Royal Toxophilite Society, in honor of her victory, caused a record of it in full to be inscribed upon the wall of their great banquet hall.

8

Mr. Waring, of London, has been seen to put twenty successive arrows into a target four feet in diameter at one hundred yards, and he has frequently put twelve arrows into a mark two feet square at forty-six yards, in one minute.

9

Mr. Crunden, of England, put ten successive arrows into a paper eight inches square at thirty yards. On another occasion he put fifty-two arrows out of a hundred into a four feet target at one hundred yards.

10

Mess. Trowbridge and Green, two members of the Toxophilites, put each, two arrows out of three into a six inch square paper at one hundred and twenty yards.

11

In August, 1799, the Rev. Gilbert Beresford won the silver bugle, given by the Woodmen of the forest of Arden, by a shot in the gold at two hundred and forty yards, and, in September, 1805, J. Featherstone, Esq., won the same prize by the same shot.

12

The Rev. Coker Adams won a silver arrow in 1832, by putting three successive arrows in a four feet target at two hundred and ten yards.

13

In the autumn of 1835, the Royal Toxophilites, the East and West Berkshire Clubs, the Windsor Foresters, the Melbourne Archers and the Clapton Archers shot a match at one hundred yards, four feet targets. Out of two hundred and seventy shots each, Mr. Moore, of the West Berkshires, made seventy-five hits and Mr. Marsh, of the Claptons, seventy hits.

14

In 1799, Dr. Spiers of the Royal Body-Guard, in a long contest, being weak from sickness, could not stand, but sitting in a chair shot and won the prize by hitting the head of a goose at one hundred yards.

15

Three members of the Wabash Bowmen, in the fall of 1877, won a medal against three chosen members of the Montgomery Guards using rifles. The archers shooting at forty yards to the rifles two hundred.

16

In September, 1876, Capt. Henry H. Talbot, of the Wabash Bowmen, in the presence of the club shot a flicher at the distance of seventy-nine measured yards. In the same month he also killed a bluebird flying with a blunt shaft.

17

Shooting at a forty-five inch target with a nine inch gold counting 9, and each outer concentric ring 4½ inches in diameter, counting 7, 5, 3, and 1, respectively. Mr. Will H. Thompson at 40 yards, made a score March 8th, 1878, in a high side wind, of 192, the last four arrows being in the gold. He is a member of the Wabash Bowmen. On the 2d day of April, 1878, the same archer at the same target and distance scored 206. And on the 12th of April, 1878, at same target and distance 224, the eight last arrows being in the gold.

18

Mr. Maurice Thompson of the same club, while hunting in Florida, kill d a wild turkey at one hundred and fifty yards.

Mr. Will H. Thompson of the Wabash Bowmen, shooting at twenty-five yards, on the 29th of March 1878, drove nine consecutive arrows into a seven inch circle.

These few instances among many thousands which might be given, are sufficient to prove that the bow is a powerful and accurate weapon when wielded by a practiced archer. Of course the power with which an arrow is driven depends much upon the strength of the bow. A fifty pound bow, which is about the weight usually used by gentlemen, will send an ordinary target arrow, weighing four shillings and six pence sterling, two hundred yards, and at one hundred yards it will kill a deer. The same bow will send a flight arrow three hundred yards. A good eighty pound bow will send a flight arrow four hundred yards.

In 1417, Henry V. ascribes his victory at Agincourt to the archers and directs the sheriffs of many counties to pluck from every goose six wing feathers, for the purpose of improving arrows, which are to be paid for by the king.

In the fifth year of the reign of Edward IV. also, we find that an Act was passed requiring every Englishman and Irishman, dwelling with Englishmen, to have an English bow of his own height, which is directed "to be made of ewe, wych, hazel, ash, or awburne, or any other reasonable tree, according to their power." Also that butts shall be made in every township, which the inhabitants are obliged to shoot up and down every feast-day, under the penalty of one halfpenny. Thus it will be seen that the long-bow was the favorite weapon; and this, indeed, appears to have been first introduced by the English.

Archery was still an object of attention to the legislature in the reign of Henry VIII.; and although from that period it gradually declined, and became rather an amusement than a warlike practice, yet care was taken to prevent the fields near London from becoming so much enclosed as to prevent the "necessary and profitable exercise." The practice of archery was enforced from the pulpit by Latimer, in a sermon preached before Edward VI., in 1549, in which he sharply rebuked the people for their effeminacy and vices, and for their neglect of archery, which he terms, "a singular benefit of God." "The art of shooting," he adds, "hath been in times past much esteemed in this realm; it is a gift of God, which he hath given us to excel all other nations withal: it hath been God's instrument whereby he hath given us many victories over our enemies. . . . A wondrous thing that so excellent a gift of God should be so little esteemed."

There appears to have been a great difficulty at various periods of English history, in obtaining a sufficiency of bow-staves for the use of the army, and in the reign of Richard III. it was ordained that ten bow-staves should accompany every butt of malmsey or Tyre wines imported from Venice, under a penalty of 13s. 4d. for every butt of wine. Even in the reign of Henry VIII. the use of the bow was so great that every individual, of whatever station, above seventeen and under sixty, only excepting "spiritual men, justices, &c.," was required to possess bow and arrows, and fines were exacted from even household servants it they were without these weapons for one month.

Leo ordained that all the youth of Rome should be compelled to use shooting more or less and always bear their bow and quiver about with them till they were eleven years old. He also adds: "we strictly command you to make proclamation to all men under our dominion, which be either in war or peace; to all cities and towns; and, finally, to all manner of men—that every free man have bow and arrows of his own, and every house have a bow and forty arrows for every occasion; and that they exercise themselves in holts, hills, dales, woods and plains, to inure them to all the chances of war."

From the numerous testimonies with which the ancient English chronicles and histories are filled, we select the following as highly illustrative of the destructive power of the old English bow: the passage is taken from a description of the battle of Halidown Hill, near Berwick, written by a contemporary historian:—"In this battle," says he, "the Lord Percie's archers did withal deliver their deadly arrows so lively, so couragously, so grievously, that they ranne through the men at arms, bored their helmets, pierced their very swords, beat their lances to the earth, and easily shot those who were more slightly armed, through and through."

Archery practice beneficial to health and combining as it were a complete gymnasium in itself.

One of the best features of archery, as a game, to recommend it over every other popular sport, is its direct beneficial influence on the health and physical strength of its votaries. It is easy to demonstrate that bow-shooting under the guidance of proper rules, is the most natural and perfect of all kinds of physical exercise. Those men who have devoted the greatest amount of time, labor and study to the subject of physical culture, have agreed that the exercise which comes nearest putting into natural, easy play *all the muscles of the body and limbs*, is most conducive to a perfect and vigorous development of physique.

One prime objection to nearly every game or sport, the object of which is healthful pastime and exercise, is that it does not necessitate ambidexterity. Instance, base-ball, fencing, Tennis and croquet. It is true that in catching and batting at base-ball, the player uses both hands to some extent; but he always depends more upon one than the other. In fencing the sword or foil is plied with the right hand and so are the implements of the other games.

Boxing probably comes nearer the perfect physical action, archery excepted, than any other exercise and the principal objections to it seem to be irremediable on account of real or fancied immoral tendencies. But it would seem, that, as compared with bow-shooting, many advantages might be urged in favor of the latter, viz:

1st. It is in every way suited to the dress, habits and physical requirements of both ladies and gentlemen. It has nothing connected with its conditions or its history in the least repulsive. Indeed, to the contrary, from the most ancient times it has been *par excellence*, the pastime of the most cultured, gentle and refined, while at the same time the uncultivate, rude and even barbarous classes of all ages have equally courted its pleasures.

2d. It is altogether an out-of-doors sport. Without free air and sunshine there is no archery.

3d. It has in it no element of danger or cruelty. The boxer not unfrequently comes out of a friendly sparring match with what is called "an eye on him," meaning perhaps, an ugly bruise around one of the tender organs of vision. Gentlemen may refuse to recognize the rather broad trace of brutality in such a result, but ladies cannot fail to condemn it.

4th. It brings into perfectly natural play, every voluntary muscle in the archer's frame.

Taking the second and fourth of the above assertions touching archery, we may, in order to a better understanding, lay down some well understood facts in hygiene.

It is but too certainly known that bronchial and lung diseases are the great, dread destroyers of human life and happiness in the United States. This is not due so much to our climate as to our mode of life. We have built air-tight houses and abolished open fire-places. By means of venetian blinds, fashionably arranged curtains, lambrequins and shades, we have shut out all the sunshine from our homes, and we have not only neglected physical culture, but have actually, to a great degree, placed a ban upon it. Nothing is more demonstrable than that the hereditary descent of pulmonary consumption, or *tuberculosis*, from parent to child, may be stopped short in a single generation by a

proper attention to the utilization of sunshine and pure air along with judiciously regulated physical training. That the body is renewed every seven years, is true only of those bodies subjected to the natural and proper influences of light, air, bathing and exercise, with, of course, proper diet. It may be safely asserted that even the subtly insiduous taint of hereditary scrofula can be eradicated from the human system by means of safe bathing, careful dieting and proper physical exercise taken in the open air and sunshine.

As a bodily exercise, archery may be described as walking, lifting, thrusting, leaping, boxing and fencing, all in one, with the most violent and objectionable features of each left out, and with the ambidextrous principle of boxing retained and heightened. It calls upon the muscles of both arms and both hands at once—it draws equally from the shoulders —it forces into action the chest and dorsal muscles, whilst from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head, the archer, while shooting, feels every voluntary physical power spring into willing action, and when the recoil comes it is a healthful shock to his whole system.

Ladies especially will find archery peculiarly adapted to the requirements of their habits and nature. Stooping low is an objectionable feature of any physical performance. It should be avoided as much as possible by ladies. It is not necessary to archery. It is one of the gravest defects of croquet. With head erect, chest expanded, lips closed, so as to breath through the nostrils, is the way in which any healthful exercise is taken.

If a proper regard to clothing is not neglected, the most delicate lady not an invalid, may practice archery in the open air with impunity, so that it be not raining. Those who have no experience in the matter will, perhaps, be slow to believe that, in the short space of three months, a most fragile young woman, by means of judicious archery practice, developed muscles that, when her arms were flexed, rolled up into balls like a blacksmith's biceps, and that she became so accustomed to out-of-door influences that exposure to them did not affect her in the slightest, no matter how inclement the weather.

Archery, as any other exercise, should not be indulged in immediately after eating or sleeping, nor should a student, a professional man or an author go at once from close, exhaustive mental work to shooting with a bow. The body and mind ought both to be brought by gradual preparation into the proper state before beginning the exercise. An hour's quiet after eating, and a half-hour's leisurely sauntering in the open air on quitting any brain-labor, will prove sufficient, in this regard, to most persons.

Early in the forenoon and the latter part of the afternoon will be found best for archery or any other physical exercise. And for both health and excellence in shooting, this exercise should be regularly performed every day It is said that a celebrated pianist once remarked that if he neglected practice *one day*, he noticed a retrogression in his manipulation—that if he neglected it *two days*, his friends noticed it—if *three days*, the public noticed it! So with the archer. Three days of neglect may produce much chagrin, if nothing worse. When taken for hygienic purposes, regularity is of the first importance in exercise.

Closing these hints and suggestions touching the effect of properly directed archery exercise on the health and strength of the archer, it may be well to caution invalids against over-exertion. Persons suffering from serious weakness on account of disease would be safer to take their exercise under the advice of a physician. Great care should be taken, by individuals just beginning to learn archery, not to over-strain the muscles and joints by bows too strong for them, or by remaining too long at the exercise.

A gentleman who smokes should never indulge in a cigar or pipe immediately preceding or during the time of shooting. If he must smoke, let it be *after the shooting is over*.

A lady who wears a tight corset need not hope for much physical benefit from archery, or, for that matter, from anything else.

THE USE OF THE BOW.

It is not every bow, even among the high-priced ones, that will give satisfaction; and consequently, when the archer secures one perfect in every respect, it is of importance that he should be able not only to shoot it well, but to care for it as to keep it serviceable for so long a time as possible.

But first to know a good bow at sight; Roger Ascham in his "SCHOLE OF SCHOOTING," printed in 1545, says: "Therefore shall I tell you some tokens in a bowe that you shal be the seeldomer deceyved. If you come into a shoppe and fynde a bowe that is small, long, heavy and strong, lying streyght, not windyng, not marred with knot, gaule, or windeshake, wem, freate or pynche, buy that bowe of my warrant." Be assured that Ascham knew a good bow at sight. He lived in the days when the English yeoman "lay his body" in a bow of one hundred pounds, and drove his heavy cloth yard shaft into the target at two hundred and seventy yards, and when no archer under twenty-four years dared shoot at any mark nearer than two hundred and twenty yards, under a heavy penalty. While the wood of which bows are made is not generally the same as in Ascham's time, still his description holds good

to this day. There are a few additional tokens that might be given, but they are of less importance, as the makers generally look to them in finishing the bow. If your bow is a lemonwood or lancewood, or in fact any other wood not backed, see that it has *plenty of wood at the handle,* for here they frequently fail.

The heat of the hand weakens the wood, loosens the grain and they crack at the handle, and gradually the crack creeps along the arm of the bow and it is ruined. The lemonwood that is lightest colored is the best, while the reverse is true of lancewood. But it is in the fine and costly backed bows that one must be most particular in purchasing, to see that they are perfect in every respect. The best backed bows have the belly of snakewood and the back of hickory, the snakewood giving great elasticity and the hickory toughness. If the belly of such a bow have a long, straight, silky grain, and is free from all pins, cracks or other imperfections, you can purchase it with safety. Some of our American woods, such as Locust, Sassafras, Mulberry and the Red-Cedar make fine bows, but as we have no maker in this country we cannot be supplied with bows of such woods.

After the archer has armed himself with such a perfect bow, and proved its qualities, he becomes attached to it and desires to preserve it as long as possible. The following hints will materially assist him to that end. A bow is generally broken in three ways. First, and oftenest, *by the breaking of the string,* for if the string breaks at the moment the cord is at the ear with the arrow drawn to the head, the sudden strong recoil of the bow will throw the ends far back and rip up the belly and ruin it. Second, *by overdrawing it,* using too long an arrow. For a six feet bow the arrow should be twenty-eight inches. Third, *by freats.* Freats are small pinches that appear in the belly of the bow that are slightly weaker than the other parts, or the wood slightly softer than other-where. At first a freat will appear like a fine scratch across the belly of the bow upon one limb, and gradually, with use of the bow, will eat in until the limb yields. For freats there can be no remedy. If a freat begins, your bow is lost. Although a freat cannot be *cured,* it may be *prevented.* If a bow is regularly rubbed with a woolen cloth slightly oiled and waxed, every time it is used, and never allowed to get damp, either from exposure to rain, fog, mist or dew, or from standing against a stone or brick wall, it may become so hard and smooth on the surface that a pinch can never start. The bowyers and archery dealers will furnish the archers with heavy green baize bow covers, six feet long to keep the bow in when not being shot. There is nothing that contributes more to the perfect preservation of the bow than to always keep it so incased, when not being used. No good bow should ever be allowed to

STRINGING THE BOW.

(From Scribner's Monthly, July, 1877.)

stand for a day without its cover. It is thus protected from cold, moisture, and the accidental scratching of the surface of the belly, the fruitful source of freats. The case is also a great protection for the bow, in making journeys to the country on horseback, or in wagon.

But it is in the use of the bow in the field, or on the target ground in which the archer is most interested. Every movement proper for the delivering of a shot we give in its order.

The Quiver is merely a tin or leather case painted green, and is intended for the security of the arrows when not in use. The Pouch and Belt are worn round the waist, and the latter contains those arrows which are actually being shot.

A Pot to hold grease for touching the glove and string, and a tassel to wipe the arrows, are hung to the belt. The grease is composed of deer-suet and beeswax melted together. Instead of a leather belt, ladies use a cord and tassels round the waist, to which the pouch, of a different shape to that adopted by gentlemen, is hooked; and this, again, has the grease-pot suspended to it.

SCORING CARD.

Name.	Gold Scores. 9	Red. 7	Inner White. 5	Black. 3	White. 1	Hits.	Value
Mr. Jones.	..	...	...	..	..	45	227
Mr. Brown.	.....	... .	... ...	...	...	47	253

TO STRING THE BOW.

Since mistakes are often made by novices, and also often creep into books, the archer should be careful to *begin* right. Some good archers in beginning to string the bow, grasp the *handle* in the *right hand*. This is wrong, for two reasons, first, because *the bow handle belongs to the left hand in every* movement of archery practice. Never take your bow in your right hand for any purpose! Secondly, because most persons are *right-handed*, and can use the right hand better than the left, in the manipulation of the string at the upper end of the bow. Observe the following directions narrowly and you will be correct in your attitudes and handling of the bow. Take the bow by the handle with the *left* hand. Place the bottom end upon the ground, resting against the hollow of the inside of the *left* foot, the toe of that foot being turned slightly inward. Keep the *flat side* of the bow, (called the *back*) toward your person: the right foot advanced about ten inches. Hold the bow firmly and be careful to prevent the lower end from slipping from the

left foot. Place the *heel* of the *right* hand upon the upper limb of the bow below the eye of the string. Then, while the fingers and thumb of the right hand slide this eye toward the notch in the upper horn, the heel of the right hand *pushes* the upper limb from you, the left hand *pulls* the handle to you, the bow is bent and the eye of the string is slipped into the upper nock. Do not release the bow until you feel that the string is solidly fixed in the nock, or you may get a blow in the face from the upper limb. Keep your fingers of the right hand from under the string near the nock, or they may get a severe pinch if the string should slip. If the weather is frosty do not string the bow until you have rubbed it for some minutes with a woolen cloth, or the hand. See that the bottom horn is *on the ground*, as well as *against the foot*, or the horn may be split off at the nock.

To unstring the bow, hold it just as in stringing, press down the upper limb as before, and as if you wished to place the eye of the string in a higher nock; this will loosen the string, when the eye must be lifted out of the nock by the forefinger and suffered to slip down the limb until stopped by the ribbon fastened to the upper horn. Now take the bow by the middle with the left hand, and hold it perpendicularly in front of you, to see if the string from nock to nock coincides with the center of the bow. If not, make it do so by shifting it at the end where it is away. Be sure that the string is thus true, or your shooting will be defective from that cause.

Your bow being strung, take your stand in front of the target. Take an arrow from your quiver with your *right* hand (your bow being held in the left), being careful not to ruffle the feathers. In thus withdrawing the arrow from the quiver, grasp it about six inches below the feather. Holding the bow with the left hand *horizontally* across the body, with the upper limb to the right, pass the point of the arrow *under the string* and *over the bow*, until the point projects six inches beyond the bow. Hold it there with the *forefinger of the left hand*, while you shift the right hand past the feathers to the nock. With the right hand turn the arrow till the cock-feather comes uppermost. Then pass the arrow down the bow and fix it upon the nocking point of the string. This is that point of the string exactly opposite that portion of the upper limb of the bow that joins the plush handle. The upper limb of the bow is made a little longer than the lower, in order that the arrow may slide on the upper limb just above the plush handle. The archer should test the matter, and discover that point of the string exactly coinciding with this point of the bow, and then mark it with a little wrapping of fine red silk-thread. Thus he will know at a glance the proper point for the arrow nock. The strings come ready wrapped for about six inches at the cen-

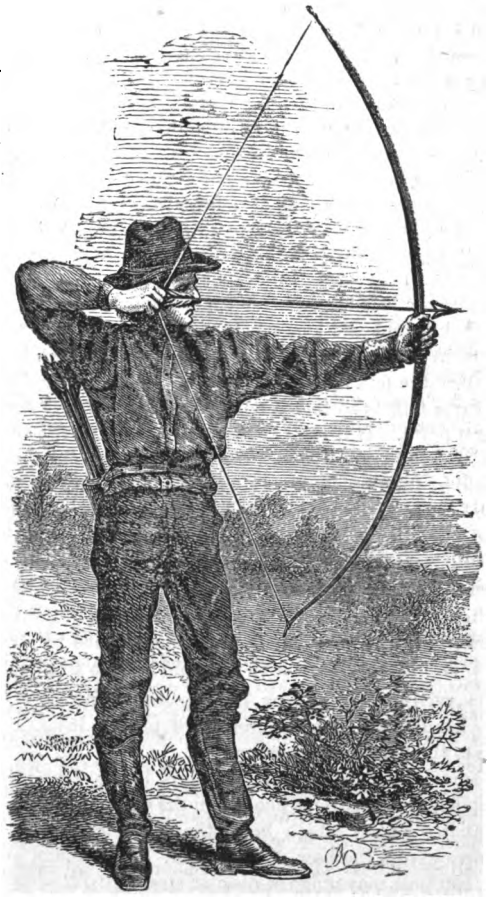
ter with black thread, to prevent the wear of the string by the fingers and the arrow nock. Whenever this wrapping becomes loosened or worn, remove it and take a silk thread well rubbed with bees-wax, string the bow so as to hold the cord tight, and wrap the cord anew as it was before. Be careful to put the wrapping on *in the direction of the twist of the bow-string.* The ends of the thread should be drawn under the wrapping neatly. If the string becomes frayed, rub it with bees-wax.

The archer being in front of the target with the arrow nocked, the next movement is to take his standing. The attitude is graceful and gives perfect control of the muscles. The body must be at right angles to the target, the left side being exactly opposed to it, with the face turned over the left shoulder and squarely facing the target. Let the feet be flat on the ground, the heels six inches apart, the toe of the left foot advanced toward the mark, the form erect, with the bust fully expanded and the head a *little* forward. With the bow held by the handle with the left hand, and the arrow being nocked, place the three first fingers of the right hand under the string, hooking them upon it with the arrow between the first and second fingers. The string should be held by these three fingers so that it will rest about half way from their tips to the first point. If it rests farther up the fingers, the string will roll and injure the flight of the arrow. Now raise the left hand to a level with the shoulder, turning the bow perpendicularly, the arrow resting on the knuckle of the first finger of the bow hand, and against the bow. Hold the bow with the firmness of a vise. Fix the eyes steadily upon the center of the mark and never remove them for an instant, till the shot is delivered. Draw the cord back, till you feel the thumb of the right hand touch the top of the right ear, when a twenty-eight inch arrow will be drawn to the head. Loose the string at once by straightening the fingers, and lo, the arrow is in the gold! (See frontispiece.)

It will be observed that every bow has generally a number immediately over the handle, which is the number of pounds it takes, to draw the bow down to the length of an arrow.

The way this is ascertained, is thus: the bow being strung, is placed horizontally on a ledge; a scale is hooked on the string, in which weights are put, and that quantity which bears the string down till it is the length of an arrow from the bow, is its weight. Thus a man according to the bow he can pull, may judge of his own strength: fifty-four pounds is the standard weight of a bow and he who can draw one of sixty with ease, as his regular shooting bow may reckon himself a strong man, though a great many archers can draw one of seventy and eighty pounds and some ninety, but they are very few.

Ladies' bows are from twenty-four pounds to thirty-four.



DRAWING THE BOW.

(From Scribner's Monthly, July, 1877.)

A very common defect is in drawing with the right hand too low, Never suffer yourself to shoot with the right hand below the *top of the right ear*. It is much easier for the novice to shoot with the right hand low, but he can never be either a good or a graceful archer shooting thus. Do not look at the arrow-head at the moment of loosing, to see if it is not being drawn too far, but depend wholly upon your sense of touch to tell you when it is drawn far enough. Keep your eyes riveted upon the center of the mark and loose sight of all other objects. Do not attempt to take sight, but when the *mind thinks* that the arrow is properly directed let drive. When the arrow is drawn to the head, do not attempt to hold it thus, but loose at once. Accustom yourself to fix your mind suddenly and firmly upon the matter in hand, so that precisely at the instant that the right hand stops at the ear, the direction is found and the arrow gone. A second's hesitation at that moment will destroy the shot.

Since the *point blank* range of a fifty pound bow is not over twenty-six yards, in shooting above that distance, two things must be taken in consideration, the *direction* and the *elevation*. Ascham calls them "shooting straight," and "keeping of a length." Every arrow describes in its flight a regular *parabola*, and if the mark is fifty or more yards distant, considerable allowance must be made for the *falling* of the arrow. Of course no rule can be formulated to guide the archer in this matter for the amount of elevation to be given to the arrow does not altogether depend upon the distance. The strength of the bow, the quickness of its cast, the weight of the shaft, the width of the feather and many other things which are more easily discovered on the target ground than explained in a book, materially effect the range of an arrow. The wind also will much increase the necessary elevation of the bow hand, if it be blowing hard along the range in the face of the arrow and of course diminish the elevation for a shot in the opposite direction. Continual practice will enable the archer to raise his bow hand instinctively to the proper elevation at any distance within the range of his bow. As much depends upon the arrow as the bow in making a successful shot. The archer had better be the owner of three *good* arrows than a score of poor ones. In target practice none but the best footed, full nocked arrows with parall l points and best finish should be used. The proper weight for target arrows is about five shillings sterling. Those of the best makers are all marked on the *stele* or shaft, between the feathers and the nock in shillings and pence, and of the gentlemen's arrows, range from four shillings three pence, to five shillings. These arrows are generally made of old deal with a footing of hard heavy wood for six inches next the steel pile, which much improves their flight and renders them much more durable.

Target shooting is best practiced by small parties of from four to eight persons. Two targets are needed, which should be placed from forty to one hundred and twenty yards apart. Each stand, when properly placed is called "an end." The proper number af arrows as fixed by agreement are then shot from one "end" to the other by each archer, when all walk to the other "end," extract such arrows as are fixed in the target, gather up those that have missed, and then shoot back at the opposite target. This is continued until the whole number of "ends" agreed upon have been shot. These targets are made of plaited straw faced with canvas and having a target face of muslin or linen upon the outside. This face is handsomely painted with a gold center, or bull's eye, and with four concentric rings from the bull's eye in the following order, red, white, black, white. In scoring the gold counts nine, the red, seven; the inner white, five; the black, three; the outer white, one. These targets are made of several sizes but those four feet in diameter are generally used. When four feet targets are used, the general distance for shooting is sixty yards, though many ranges are shot at one hundred and one hundred and twenty yards. If the archer is determined to become a *good* shot, the longer ranges he shoots the better. Ascham says, that "when you can do good farre schotinge you can do good nere schotinge."

BUTT-SHOOTING.

Butts are mounds of earth sodded over with grass, and may be of any size desired. They are usually made of about the following form: Nine feet by six feet at the base, and diminishing to five feet by two at the top. When more than two are wanted, they are ranged in setts at a distance thirty yards apart and so disposed as not to stand in the way of each other, and forming a series of ranges of thirty, sixty, ninety, and one hundred and twenty yards. Against the butt is placed a small circle of paste-board of any size desired, from three inches to one foot in diameter which is fastened by means of a peg driven into the butt, through the center. Shots in the butt, missing the paper, are not scored, and of hits, that one ranks highest which is nearest the peg.

ROVING.

This is so called because the archers rove from point to point, shooting at varying marks, such as trees, stumps, banks of earth, or any other objects that present themselves. The winner of the first chooses the next, and so on; the distance generally being from one hundred to two hundred yards, all arrows falling within five bow-lengths' scoring, if nearer to the mark than the arrows of the other archers.

FLIGHT-SHOOTING.

Flight-shooting is merely a trial of distance, the farthest shot winning. Of course, in a contest of this sort, much depends on the strength of the bow, and the weight and finish of the arrow.

CLOUT-SHOOTING.

The clout is a small white target of paste-board, twelve inches in diameter, which is thrust into a cleft stick, and this is stuck into the ground obliquely, so as to bring the lower edge to the ground. The distance is generally from fifty to two hundred yards, and the same rules apply as in roving.

Target shooting is preferable to any other form of practice for the young archer, or the beginner of any age, because he can keep his scores, and by comparison can discover just the extent of his daily improvement; and the target, properly made and placed, is a beautiful object on the green lawn, its gay colors forming a pleasing contrast with the surrounding objects.

There are many things which occur in shooting, puzzling to the novice, and difficult for him to prevent, which injuriously affect his scores. One of these is the "wabbling" flight of his arrows. There are several causes for this. One is the placing of the arrow nock too low or too high on the string. If your arrow "wabbles" place the next higher; if it still continues to do so, place it lower. If after many shiftings of the nock, the uneven flight still continues, see if one of the eyes of the string is not awry in the nock. If the string is even, be sure that you are holding the string too high upon your fingers. Draw with the cord a little nearer the tips and see if the flight is not true. Do not be satisfied if your arrow flies some better, but carefully continue your examination into the causes of its poor flight until you get at the truth. If the arrow does not fly *perfectly* steady, something is wrong. Although the feathers appear to be straight to the careless glance, yet they are not so, but are put on in a slightly spiral course, so that they turn as they fly, and this motion materially assists to keep them in their direct course. No arrow will shoot accurately if wet, or if sand, earth, or any other substance adhere to it; so if an arrow misses the target and is driven into the ground, carefully withdraw it by taking it some inches past the feathers and slowly turning it as you pull it toward you. Then remove every particle of earth or moisture before shooting

AIMING HIGH.

(From Scribner's Monthly, July, 1877.)

it. Arrows should be kept in a tin case, or close wooden box, and never allowed to remain near a stove lest they warp The archer's compl ment of arms and gear, consists in his bow, a dozen arrows, a quiver, a bracer or arm guard, the shooting glove, a tassel hung to his quiver belt, to wipe the earth and moisture from his arrows, a grease pot also hung to his belt, and a score book and pricker Of course he must have a cover for his bow.

The arm guard or bracer ("the gail bracer ' of Spenser) is generally a piece of heavy hard leather, seven inches long and curved laterally so as to fit on the inside of the left arm from the wrist toward the elbow. It is fastened by two elastic bands, having rings and hooks. This is a very necessary part of the archer's gear, its purpose being to prevent the blow of the sharp cord from injuring the arm or sleeve, and to allow the string to smoothly slide forward when it is struck, which the sleeve will not do. No one can shoot regularly or in comfort without the bracer, for many arrows will fall short that were well aimed, solely on account of the sleeve impeding the string and thus retarding the flight of the arrow.

The shooting glove consists of three thimbles of leather, connected by leather bands to an elastic ribbon, buckled about the wrist. The beginner always finds these awkward but useful friends, and though his first efforts to use them are abortive, still he *must* learn to use them, for no cuticle will endure the friction of the tight cord of a 60 pound bow. However, the protection of the fingers is not the only merit of the shooting glove, for the archer will shoot with greater regularity and accuracy who accustoms himself to shoot with them.

Scoring Card.

A scoring card is provided with columns corresponding with the colors of the target, and the score is kept by pricking a hole in that color struck by the arrow. When the number of arrows agreed upon are shot, the score is thus easily cast up.

Archery clubs, like all other societies formed for pastime, must be governed by certain fixed rules, or the pleasure of the shooting may often be marred by the irregular way in which it is conducted. Most of the following are used by several clubs.

1.

That a Lady Paramount be annually elected.

2.

That there be —— meetings in each year, the gentleman at whose house the meeting takes place to be President; and every member intending to shoot shall be on the ground by —— o'clock, the shooting to commence at —— o'clclock, and terminate at —— o'clock.

3.

Every member intending to shoot shall appear in the uniform of the club.

4.

That the Secretary shall send out cards, at least five days before each meeting of the club acquainting the members with the time and place of the meeting

5.

That there shall be four prizes shot for at each meeting, two for each sex. The first prize shall be for hits, the second for numbers; but no person shall be entitled to both on the same day.

6.

In case of a tie for hits, numbers shall decide; and in case of a tie for numbers, hits shall decide.

7.

The decision of the Lady Paramount shall be final.

8.

There shall be one prize given, at each meeting, for strangers.

9.

There shall be a challenge prize of the value of —— dollars, to which every winner shall attach a commemorative ornament of silver.

10.

That the distance for shooting shall be sixty and one hundred yards, and four feet targets shall be used.

11.

That each archer shall shoot —— arrows, distinctly marked or colored.

12.

Each male member shall deposit with the Lady Paramount the sum of —— at each meeting, for prizes.

13.

No archer shall shoot with the bow of any other member, unless his own bow be broken during the shooting, under penalty of placing in the hands of the Lady Paramount —— dollars, for prizes.

Archery Bows and Arrows and Fixtures.

(For Description and Prices, see following pages.)

N. B. No Bows will be exchanged or taken back after they leave our store, as they are tried and inspected thoroughly by us before being sent out.

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LONDON, E. C., February 19th, 1878.

Notice to Archery Dealers in general:

I, Philip Highfield, of 34 Whisken street, Clerkenwell, London, E. C., England, have authorized Messrs. Peck & Snyder, of 124 Nassau street, New York City, to become Sole Agents for the sale of my Archery Goods in the United States, and please note that all dealers in future will have to apply to them for my goods, where they will find a very large and selected stock always kept on hand in connection with their general business.

PHILIP HIGHFIELD.

No.	Length.		Each
3	2 ft. 6 in.	Bow	$0 0
4	2 ft. 9 in.	"	12
5	3 ft. 3 in.	Polished	20
6	3 ft. 9 in.	"	30
7	4 ft. 3 in.	"	40
8	4 ft. 9 in.	Stained and polished	50
9	5 ft. 0 in.	" "	75
0	5 ft. 6 in.	" "	1 25
11	6 ft. 0 in.	" "	1 50
12	4 ft. 0 in.	Horn-tipped "	1 00
13	4 ft. 6 in.	" "	1 25
1	5 ft. 0 in.	" "	50
15	ft. 6 in.	" "	2 00
16	6 ft 0 in.	" "	2 25
17	4 ft. 0 in.	Superior plush handles and Flemish strings	1 25
18	4 ft. 6 in.	" " " "	1 50
19	5 ft. 0 in.	" " " "	2 00
20	5 ft. 6 in.	" " " "	2 25
21	6 ft. 0 in.	" " " "	2 50
22	4 ft. 0 in.	Best self lancewood, made to weight	2 25
23	3 ft. 6 in.	" "	2 50
24	5 ft. 0 in.	" "	3 00
5	5 ft. 3 in.	Ladies' " " (See cut)	3 50
26	6 ft. 0 in.	Gents' " "	4 00
27	5 ft. 3 in.	Ladies' lemonwood "	4 50
28	6 ft. 0 in.	Gents' " " (See cut)	5 00
29	5 ft. 3 in.	Ladies' lance and hickory	5 00
30	6 ft. 0 in.	Gents' "	7 00

No.	Length.	Each
3	5 ft. 3 in. Ladies' fancy wood backed Bows	$7 00
32	6 ft. 0 in. Gents' " " "	8 50
33	5 ft. 3 in. Ladies' three piece Bows	8 50
34	6 ft. 0 in. Gents' " " "	10 00

Hickory (Indian make) arrow and string with each bow. { 36 in. 25 cts. | 40 in. 40 cts. | 50 and 60 in. 60 cts. 75 cts.

Cross Bows, English, Nos.	6,	7,	8,	9,	0,	11.
each,	$1.00	$1.50	$2.00	$2.50	$3.00	$3.50

Cross Bows, Brass Barrels, Nos.	2,	3,	4,	5,
each,	$2.00	$3.00	$3.50	$4.50

Cross Bow Arrows) Nos.	1,	2,	3,	4,
per doz.	$1.00	$1.50	$2.00	$2.50

No.	Length.	Per Doz.
1	12 in. Arrow	$0 25
2	16 in. "	0 50
3	20 in. sharp points, glued feathers	0 75
4	21 in. " three "	1 00
4a	21 in. Painted and polished	1 50
5	24 in. Polished	1 75
5a	24 in. Painted and polished	2 00
6	25 in ½ Knocks, painted and polished	2 25
6a	21 in. " " "	2 00
7	28 in. " " "	2 50
8	25 in. ½ " " "	3 00
9	28 in. " " "	3 50
10	22 in. Youths' best pine painted and gilt	3 50
11	25 in. Ladies' " " "	4 00
12	28 in. Gents' " " "	4 50
15	25 in. Old Deal, painted, gilt and painted between feathers.	6 00
16	28 in. Old Deal, painted, gilt and painted between the feathers (See cut)	6 75
21	25 in. Best Footed, with parallel points, painted and gilt, and painted between the feathers	8 50
22	28 in. Gents' Best Footed, with parallel points, painted and gilt, and painted between the feathers	9 00
T	28 in. Thompson's Model Hunting Arrows, with Indian spear points	3 00
6	Steel-pointed Indian Arrow Heads (See cut, exact size	1 00
	28 in. Steel, blunt-point, hickory arrows, feathered	3 00
	Steel Points for arrows	50
	Horn Tips for bows, per pair	50

Wax made expressly for bow strings (English), per ball	15
Japanese Arrows, per doz. $2.00, $2.25, $3.00 and	3 50
French Arrows, horn points, 25 in. $3.50; 28 in.	5 00

Hickory Arrows (Indian make)	18 in.	21 in.	24 in.	27 in.
per doz.	60 c.	80 c.	$ .00	1 25

Scoring Cards for round tablet, per doz.	30
Scoring Cards for square tablet, "	60
Ebony Scoring Tablet, round, with card and pricker, each.	75
Patent Leather Tablet, square, with card, "	60

TARGETS,

of Canvas facings, painted in Gold, Blue, Red, Black and White, and mounted on Plaited Straw. (See cut No. 36.)

Diameter,	12 in.	15.	18.	21,	24,	30,	36,	42,	48,
Each,	$1.00	$1.25	$1 75	$2.00	$2.50	$3.00	$4.00	$5.00	$6.00

Target Facings, not mounted, one-quarter price of above.

No. 2	Ladies' Gloves, round top	each,	$1 00
" 3	" " lace tips (See cut)	"	1 25
" 4	Ladies' Arm Guards, plain green	"	1 25
" 5	" " lined and stitched	"	1 50
" 6	" " silk lined	"	1 75
" 13	" Quiver Belts, with slides (See cut)	"	2 00
" 14	" " stitched	"	2 50
" 17	Gents' Gloves, plain, round top	"	1 00
" 18	" " " lace tips	"	1 25
" 22	" Arm Guards, plain elastic bands	"	1 25
" 23	" " lined and stitched (See cut)	"	1 50
" 25	Gents' Quiver Belts	"	2 00
" 26	" Quiver Belts, fine	"	2 50
" 33	Ladies' red, white and blue Tassels	"	50
" 35	Gents' " "	"	75
" 40	Wood Grease Cups, with lids and grease	"	50
" 41	Ivory " " "	"	1 50
" 42	Flemish Bow Strings, whipped ready for use	"	40
" 43	Best White " " "	"	50
" 44	Heavy Green Baize Bow-case Covers	"	1 00
" 46	5 ft. Iron Target Stands, portable	"	2 50
" 47	5 ft. 6 in. " " (See cut)	"	2 75
" 48	ft. " "	"	3 00
" 49	Heavy Flemish Bow String, whipped	"	60
" 50	Peck & Snyder's American Bow Strings.....25c. 40c. and		50
" 51	Extra strong strings, suitable for Hunting Bows,.....each		60
" 52	Archery Score Books (new), bound ..each, 50c., 75c., and		1 00
" 53	Ivory Spring Prickers, each $1.00; Ebony.....each		75

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	Badminton Nets, colored, size, 26x3 feet	each, 2 00

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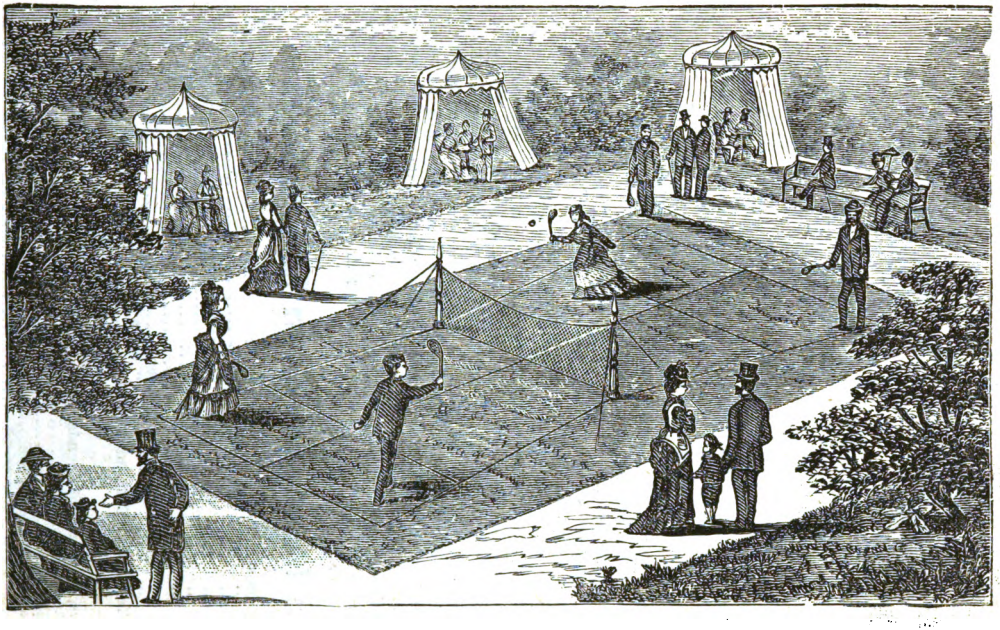

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